

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1955



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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Members of the Health Committee

*Chairman :*

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. BROWN

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNTY ALDERMAN LADY D. SHEPPERSON

*County Aldermen :*

M. J. Allen  
C. H. Chandler  
C. M. J. Coote

W. H. Gotobed  
G. P. Radford

*County Councillors :*

Mrs. M. K. Abrahams  
W. P. Anderson  
B. S. Bye  
E. Collinson  
S. Cox  
G. A. Earl  
Mrs. S. Evans  
Rev. E. I. Evans

G. E. Fuller  
E. G. Holmes  
G. A. Holmes  
Mrs. W. A. Hunting  
T. E. R. Parsons  
Rev. M. H. Wells  
H. Wicks  
C. J. Wiles

*Co-opted Members :*

Mrs. V. E. Compton  
Dr. E. R. Dansie  
Mrs. K. W. Jeffreys  
Mrs. Magee  
Miss C. J. Morgan-Grey  
Mrs. D. L. Pledger

Lady Sandwich  
Dr. A. E. Staffurth  
Mrs. V. J. Staffurth  
H. Street  
Miss E. Tillard

## WHOLETIME STAFF

### *County Medical Officer of Health:*

D. S. Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

### *Assistant County Medical Officers:*

(Mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)

Jean D. McKellar, M.B., B.S.

Lilian E. Phillips, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time).

### *Assistant County Medical Officers:*

(Child welfare, school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts.

James Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Francis D. F. Steede, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

### *Chest Physicians (part-time)*

C. E. P. Downes, M.R.C.P.

G. B. Royce, B.S., M.B., Ch.B.

### *Senior Dental Officer:*

(Schools and maternity and child welfare services)

W. R. S. Robertson, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.)

### *Inspector under Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders:*

Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time)

### *Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act:*

S. R. Hargreaves

### *Ambulance Officer:*

A. Easton

### *Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Health Visitor:*

Miss A. Garner

*Orthopaedic Physiotherapist:*

Vacancy

*Domestic Help Organiser:*

Mrs. B. A. Meadows

*Welfare Officer for the Care of the Unmarried Mother:*

Miss E. Walkley (Resigned 30th November, 1955)

Miss E. L. Rayner (Commenced 1st December, 1955)

*Authorised Officer for Mental Health:*

J. B. Ashwell

*Deputy Authorised Officer for Mental Health:*

G. Fordham

*Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives:*

Miss O. K. Ivimey

*Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives:*

Miss L. E. Roberts

*Health Visitors:*

Miss M. S. Balfour

Miss J. Bassford

Miss I. L. Bays

Miss A. Boyd

Miss H. L. Cornwall

Miss O. Evans

Miss H. Hardin

Miss E. Pelbrough

Mrs. M. B. Taylor

*Chief Clerk:*

R. E. Killick

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Huntingdonshire County Council.*

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the County for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The general health of the population remains satisfactory. Scrutiny of the vital statistics indicates that the rates for Huntingdonshire compare very favourably with those for England and Wales.

The Birth Rate of 16.0 per thousand of the estimated population is the lowest recorded since 1941 and the Death Rate of 10.7 is the lowest since 1948.

It is perhaps of general interest to note that so far, in Huntingdonshire, unlike some areas, the number of deaths from Cancer of the Lung over the past five years has remained more or less stationary.

During the course of the year the Health Committee took steps to extend their existing schemes of prophylactic treatment against Infectious Diseases to include Whooping Cough.

Some indication is to be found in the body of this Report in respect of the diversity of the work which is now undertaken by the Health Visitor. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellence of this work, particularly in connection with problem families in which splendid results have been achieved in some cases where a break up of the family seemed almost certain.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks once again to those individuals who have given valuable assistance in a voluntary capacity during the year.

In conclusion I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their assistance and support during the year and to record my appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by the medical, nursing and clerical staff throughout the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1956.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) ... ..	233,985
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1955) ...	73,000

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
<b>BIRTHS—</b>			
Live Births—			
Legitimate ... ..	565	546	1,111
Illegitimate ... ..	30	29	59
Total Births ... ..	595	575	1,170
Birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..			16.03
Still Births ... ..			27
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births ... ..			23.39
<b>DEATHS—</b>			
Deaths from all causes ... ..			783
Death rate (Crude) in—			
Urban Districts ... ..			13.0
Rural Districts ... ..			9.0
County of Huntingdon ... ..			10.7
England and Wales ... ..			11.7
Maternal Deaths—			
From pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..			Nil
Infant Deaths—			
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—			
Legitimate ... ..			21.6
Illegitimate ... ..			50.8
Total death rate ... ..			23.1

## Population

The statistics issued by the Registrar General for 1955 comprise figures relating to resident civilians and members of the armed forces stationed in the area. The population figures thus obtained are referred to as "home populations". The estimated home populations of the County Districts at the 30th June, 1955, were as follows :—

Administrative County	...	...	...	...	73,000
Urban Districts	...	...	...	...	31,600
Huntingdon M.B.	...	...	...	...	5,570
Godmanchester M.B.	...	...	...	...	2,420
St. Ives M.B.	...	...	...	...	3,340
St. Neots	...	...	...	...	5,160
Ramsey	...	...	...	...	5,700
Old Fletton	...	...	...	...	9,410
Rural Districts	...	...	...	...	41,400
Huntingdon	...	...	...	...	10,380
St. Ives	...	...	...	...	14,920
St. Neots	...	...	...	...	7,280
Norman Cross	...	...	...	...	8,820

## Births

The total number of live births notified in the County of Huntingdon was 1,170 which is equivalent to 16 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is somewhat lower than in 1954 when it was 16.5, but still compares favourably with the Birth Rate for England and Wales which is 15 per 1,000. The highest and lowest birth rates in the County were St. Ives Borough 20.1 and St. Ives Rural District 13.7 respectively.

Illegitimate births numbered 59 compared with 60 in 1954.

Still births were 27 compared with 24 in the previous year; this is equivalent to 23 per 1,000 total births which is an increase on the 1954 figure of 19.5.

## Deaths

Deaths from all causes numbered 783 compared with 831 in the previous year. The crude death rate for Huntingdon County was equivalent to 10.7 while the corresponding figure for England and Wales was 11.7. This must be considered very satisfactory.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Infant mortality was 23.1 per 1,000 births, the comparable figure for England and Wales was 24.9.

A summary of the comparative vital statistics of Huntingdonshire and England and Wales for 1955 is most encouraging.

	England and Wales	Huntingdonshire
Birth Rate ... ..	15.0	16.0
Death Rate ... ..	11.7	10.7
Infant Mortality ... ..	24.9	23.1

Analysis of the causes of death reveal interesting points. Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 5, which shows an increase as compared with the record small number of 3 in 1954.

Deaths as a result of motor accidents numbered 16 which is the highest recorded for the last seven years. This must inevitably give rise to anxiety, and the increase in the number of deaths from accidents is all the more disturbing when it is realised that this is one of the few causes of death which are preventable.

The newspapers and medical journals have given much publicity to the increase in lung cancer and its association with cigarette smoking. The numbers of deaths due to malignant disease of the lungs and bronchus in Huntingdonshire for the last six years are as follows:—

Year	No. of deaths
1950	16
1951	11
1952	15
1953	15
1954	17
1955	15

It may be somewhat reassuring to Huntingdonshire residents to know that there has been no marked increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the lung during the past five years.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts and of England and Wales for the past five years :—

TABLE 1

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Urban Districts ...	16.7	15.3	17.0	17.0	16.7	12.0	11.8	12.7	14.2	13.0
Rural Districts ...	16.8	17.0	17.3	16.2	15.5	11.3	10.3	9.3	9.3	9.0
County of Huntingdon	16.8	16.2	17.2	16.5	16.0	11.6	11.0	10.8	11.4	10.7
England and Wales	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE COUNTY DURING 1955

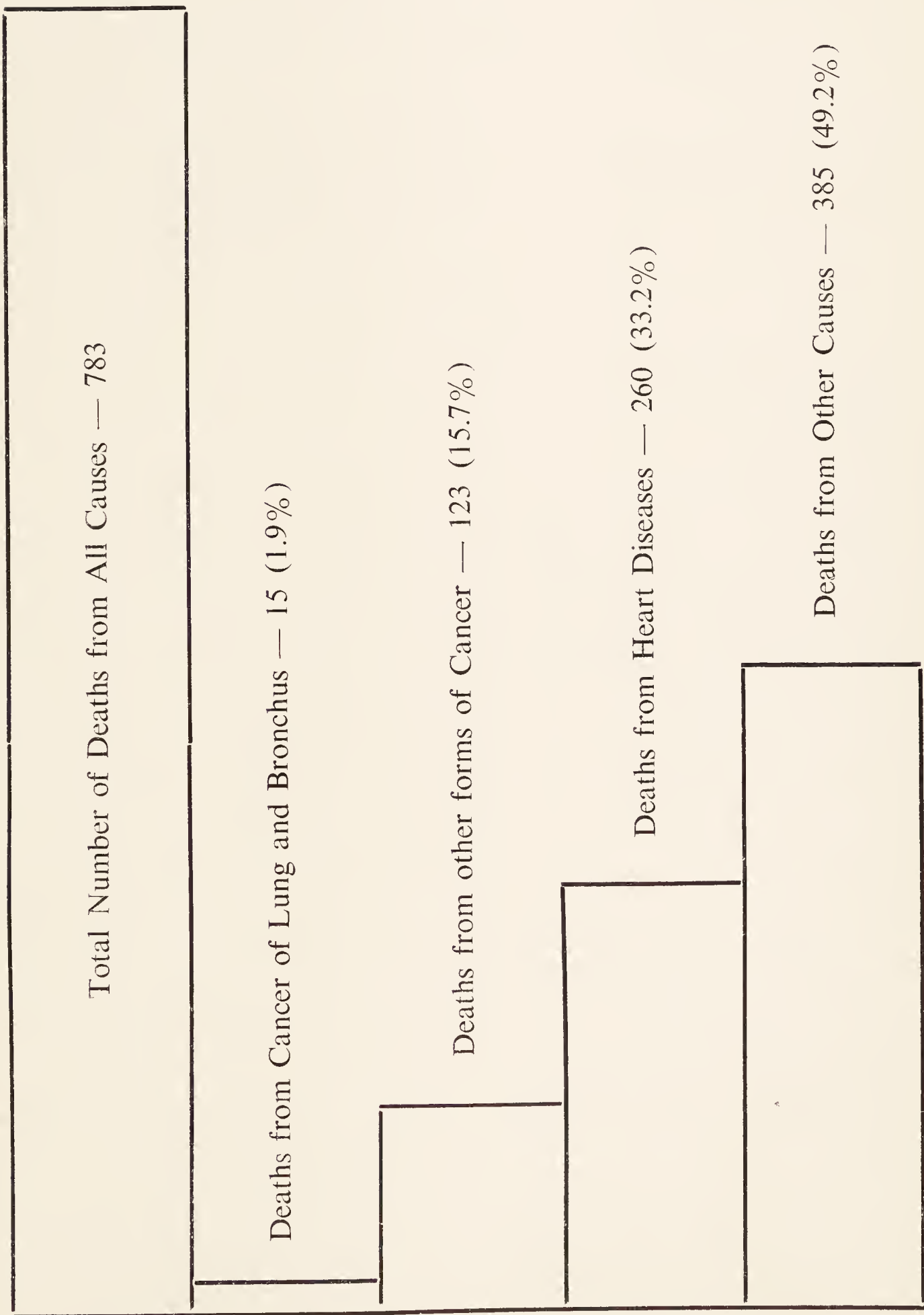




TABLE  
TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE							
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	12	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	—	—	—	1	8	3	—
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—	2	3	19	24	34
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	—	—	—	2	—	12	40	63
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	—	—	—	—	2	31	37	33
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	10
20. Other Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	1	12	25	103
21. Other Circulatory Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	12
22. Influenza ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	6
23. Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	2	3	2	7
24. Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	9
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	18	—	1	—	7	16	11	45
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	—	1	4	3	3	1	4
34. All other Accidents ...	2	—	—	4	4	2	1	8
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ALL CAUSES ...	27	2	4	15	28	150	193	364

## DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1955

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon Borough	Godmanchester Borough	St. Ives Borough	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton U.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
25	3	1	—	1	3	1	1	3	8	4
15	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	—	2
12	2	3	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	1
4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
82	16	3	4	7	7	7	10	8	8	12
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1
117	23	2	3	8	9	7	17	12	23	13
103	13	3	4	6	5	13	11	32	7	9
16	10	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
141	36	3	10	5	12	24	7	14	13	17
22	6	2	2	—	1	1	1	5	2	2
10	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	5	—
15	1	—	1	1	1	2	3	5	—	1
19	4	1	1	2	1	4	1	—	2	3
5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
9	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	1
5	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
10	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2	—
11	2	—	1	2	1	1	2	1	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	1
98	16	5	4	12	8	9	11	12	10	11
16	—	—	—	1	3	3	3	2	2	2
21	5	1	1	3	1	1	6	1	1	1
6	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
783	145	27	37	62	60	80	80	112	93	87

TABLE 3

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955  
Urban and Rural Districts

District	Area in acres	Persons per acre	Population	Live Births				Deaths				Deaths under 1 year of age		Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death Rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Birth Rate	No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Death Rate	No.	Rate per 1,000 reg'd births		
URBAN:															
Huntingdon Boro'	2151	2.6	5570	88	15.8	1.03	16.3	145	26.0	0.80	20.8	5	56.8	0.2	—
Godmanchester Boro'	4907	0.5	2420	42	17.3	1.03	17.8	27	11.2	0.89	9.9	1	23.8	0.4	—
St. Ives Borough ...	2326	1.4	3340	70	20.1	1.02	21.4	37	11.1	0.82	9.1	—	—	—	—
St. Neots Urban ...	1390	3.7	5160	72	13.9	1.05	14.6	62	12.0	0.83	10.0	2	27.8	—	0.2
Ramsey Urban ...	15980	0.4	5700	105	18.4	1.01	18.6	60	10.5	1.02	10.7	3	28.6	—	—
Old Fletton Urban	3029	3.1	9410	151	16.0	1.06	17.0	80	8.5	1.08	9.2	3	20.0	—	—
<i>Totals for Urban Dist's</i>	29783	1.1	31600	528	16.7	1.04	17.4	411	13.0	0.92	12.0	14	26.5	0.06	0.03
RURAL:															
Huntingdon ...	69937	0.1	10380	184	17.7	1.21	21.4	80	7.7	1.11	8.6	3	16.3	—	—
St. Ives ...	45911	0.3	14920	204	13.7	1.13	15.5	112	7.5	1.07	8.0	4	19.6	—	0.07
St. Neots ...	52559	0.1	7280	116	15.9	1.13	18.0	93	12.8	0.84	10.7	3	25.9	0.1	—
Norman Cross ...	35795	0.2	8820	138	15.6	1.07	16.7	87	9.9	1.11	10.9	3	21.7	—	—
<i>Totals for Rural Dist's</i>	204202	0.2	41400	642	15.5	1.14	17.7	372	9.0	1.03	9.2	13	20.2	0.02	0.02
Administrative County	233985	0.3	73000	1170	16.0	1.09	17.5	783	10.7	0.98	10.5	27	23.1	0.04	0.03
England and Wales					15.0				11.7				24.9	0.13	0.02



# CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

## (Section 22)

### Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

The arrangements described in detail in my report for the previous year remain unchanged.

During the year 1,856 attendances were made at the Ante-natal clinics by 511 expectant mothers; the average number of visits per patient numbered 3.6. The corresponding figures for 1954 were 1,419 attendances by 450 expectant mothers with an average of 3.4 visits per patient. This continued all round increase of attendances at the ante-natal clinics is a very satisfactory feature of the Midwifery Service, and one which should be encouraged.

During the past year 96 patients attended for post-natal examination as compared with 104 in the previous year.

The simple breathing and relaxation exercises conducted and supervised by the midwives and the general health education and mothercraft instruction undertaken by the health visitors during the ante-natal period are very much appreciated by the expectant mothers and are regularly attended.

The facilities for the care of the unmarried mother under Ministry of Health Circular 2866 remain as in former years unchanged.

Maternity Outfits issued to domiciliary midwifery cases in 1955 numbered 494.

Examination by general practitioner-obstetricians of cases undertaken by midwives were as follows:—

Ante-natal examinations	...	...	...	...	14
Post-natal examinations	...	...	...	...	3

**TABLE 4**  
**Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics**

	Number of clinics provided at end of year	Number of sessions held per month		Number of women in attendance		Total number of attendances during the year	
		Medical Officers, Sessions	Mid- wives, Sessions	Number of women who attended during the year	Number of new cases included in last column	Medical Officers, Sessions	Midwives, Sessions
Local Health Authority clinics :							
Ante-natal	5	9	7	465	366	1069	624
Post-natal	—	—	—	85	85	116	1
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations :							
Ante-natal	1	1	1	46	33	129	34
Post-natal	—	—	—	11	11	22	—

## Infant Welfare Centres

There are 19 centres in the County where Infant Welfare Clinics are held and of these 16 are staffed directly by the Health Department of the County Council. There are two centres in the Royal Air Force establishments at Upwood and Wyton and one centre at Old Fletton run by a Voluntary Organisation.

Towards the end of the year Spaldwick Clinic was closed. Transport arrangements were made to convey the mothers and young children from this area to the centre held at Kimbolton.

The total number of attendances at clinics in 1955 was 10,348 compared with 11,174 in 1954, a decrease of 826. On looking at Table 5 it will be noted that with the exception of St. Ives the fall in the numbers is fairly evenly distributed throughout the County.

This decreased number of attendances can be correlated to the fall in the birth rate. In 1954 the Birth Rate for the County was 16.7 per 1,000 population while in 1955 it fell to 16.03 per 1,000. In St. Ives Borough the birth rate rose sharply from 17.6 in 1954 to 21.4 in 1955 with a corresponding rise in attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic of the 0—1 age group from 722 in 1954 to 914 in 1955. In St. Neots Urban district a corresponding fall in figures is shown, the Birth Rate dropping from 19 per 1,000 in 1954 to 18 per 1,000 in 1955, while the attendances of infants under the age of five dropped from 2,002 in 1954 to 1,810 in the year under review. These figures only indicate the trend for it must be remembered that these clinics draw from a much wider area than the urban area in which they are situated.

The total number of live births in the County was 1,170 and there were 702 first attendances of infants between 0—1 year of age at Infant Welfare Centres. That is to say six out of every ten mothers attended an Infant Welfare Centre with their baby. This must be considered satisfactory for a rural area where transport constitutes a problem, especially during the winter months.

TABLE 5

## ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

	<i>First Attendances</i>		<i>Subsequent Attendances</i>			<i>Total Attendances</i>
	0 — 1 year	1 — 5 years	0 — 1 year	1 — 2 years	2 — 5 years	
<i>County Centres</i>						
Alconbury ...	5	—	36	19	19	79
Brampton ...	18	3	95	73	38	227
Buckden ...	16	2	127	66	54	265
Elton ...	16	2	97	38	63	216
Fenstanton ...	10	5	49	48	78	190
Great Gransden	6	8	22	5	5	46
Great Staughton	16	2	83	65	99	265
Huntingdon ...	91	4	1014	277	194	1580
Kimbolton ...	15	4	99	64	95	277
Ramsey ...	59	4	164	46	39	312
St. Ives ...	76	7	838	117	192	1220
St. Neots ...	91	12	1002	355	350	1810
Sawtry ...	8	2	60	66	79	215
Somersham ...	10	1	56	64	32	163
Spaldwick ...	8	—	28	27	30	93
Warboys ...	30	6	181	148	149	514
Yaxley ...	30	—	100	45	21	196
<i>Voluntary Centres</i>						
Old Fletton ...	95	2	1182	270	149	1698
Wyton Aerodrome	47	8	428	140	58	681
Upwood Aerodrome	55	1	220	8	7	291
<i>Total Number of Attendances at all Centres</i>	702	73	5881	1941	1751	10348

## Premature Infants

During the year 1955 notifications were as follows:—

Number of Premature Live Births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	59
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	...	26
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	—
						Total	85



Number of Premature Still-Births notified (as adjusted by  
transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	In private nursing homes				...	...	—
							<hr/>
Total							14
							<hr/>

Facilities continue to be provided in the County for premature infants born on the district. The number of premature infants born at home during the year numbered 26 and of this number 19 were nursed entirely at home and all survived the first 28 days. The remaining 7 were transferred to hospital and of these 3 survived the first 28 days, while the 4 who died all weighed under  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.

Analysis of figures for 85 premature births show that only one baby over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. failed to survive for four weeks.

TABLE 6

Weight at Birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days
3 lb. 4 oz. or less	6	4	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. ...	8	—	7	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. ...	18	—	18	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	27	—	26	15	—	15	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	59	4	52	19	—	19	7	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	—

**Dental Care**

The Dental Officer reports as follows :—

There was a slight increase in the number of nursing and expectant mothers attending for treatment during 1955. In 1954 there were 36 attendances and in 1955, 46.

All these cases were given early treatment and together with pre-school children were given priority at the various Dental Clinics.

Dental Care is provided at the Dental Clinics at Huntingdon, Old Fletton, Ramsey, St. Neots and St. Ives.

TABLE 7  
Numbers provided with dental care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	31	28	27	15
Children under five ...	18	18	18	14

TABLE 8  
Forms of dental treatment provided :

	Scalings & gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	8	20	—	—	30	—	—	—	—
Children under five ...	—	2	—	—	18	—	—	—	--



TABLE 9

**Maternity Beds**

Year	Total No. of Births	Births in Maternity Homes or Hospitals	Percentage of Institutional Births
1951	1,170	728	62
1952	1,141	678	60
1953	1,246	733	59
1954	1,228	750	61
1955	1,197	717	60

The following is a record of admissions to Mother and Baby Homes during the year :—

Diocesan Home, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	4
Other Homes	...	...	...	...	1

**Ophthalmic Work**

The following table summarises the ophthalmic work undertaken :—

	Huntingdon	Old Fletton
Number of new cases	25	—
Number of old cases	65	2
Number of attendances	90	2
Total number of cases in which spectacles were prescribed	23	1

## Orthopaedic

The following table gives particulars of cases dealt with at the Surgeons' Clinics during the year.

**TABLE 10**  
**ATTENDANCES AT SURGEONS' CLINICS, 1955**

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>New cases seen</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					<i>Total</i>
			<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. &amp; C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	
Huntingdon ...	22	148	47	495	96	12	15	655
Peterborough ...	11	10	2	57	6	7	1	73
TOTAL ...	33	158	49	552	102	19	16	728

**Note.**—S.E.—Secondary Education; P.E.—Primary Education; M. & C.W.—Pre-School cases; T.B.—Tuberculosis cases; P.H.—Other Adults.

## Distribution of Welfare Foods

The scheme for the distribution of welfare foods set up under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and in operation since June, 1954, has continued to run smoothly. The foods continue to be distributed from five main distribution centres and also by thirty-nine voluntary distributors at various points in the County.

At the request of the firm delivering the foods on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food some minor changes in delivery days and times took place during the year.

The following table shows the receipts and issues of Welfare Foods during the year 1955.

**TABLE 11**

<i>Receipts</i>				<i>Issues</i>			
<i>N.D.M. tins</i>	<i>C.L.O. bottles</i>	<i>A &amp; D tabs. pkts.</i>	<i>O.J. bottles</i>	<i>N.D.M. tins</i>	<i>C.L.O. bottles</i>	<i>A &amp; D tabs. pkts.</i>	<i>O.J. bottles</i>
34,002	7,488	2,980	42,624	34,081	7,687	2,723	41,856

The following statement gives the location and times of opening of the main centres of distribution as at 31st December, 1955.

<b>Huntingdon</b>	<b>No. 6 Hut, Castle Hill House Grounds.</b>
	Monday 2—5 p.m.
	Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m.
	Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m.
	Friday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.
	Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
<b>St. Ives</b>	<b>20b, The Broadway.</b>
	Monday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.
	Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.
	Saturday—9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
	<b>Infant Welfare Centre, Station Approach.</b>
	Friday 2—4.30 p.m.
<b>St. Neots</b>	<b>62, High Street.</b>
	Wednesday 2—4 p.m.
	Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m.
	Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
<b>Ramsey</b>	<b>Health Clinic, Westfield.</b>
	Monday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
	Friday 2—4.30 p.m.
	<b>Infant Welfare Centre.</b>
	Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.
<b>Old Fletton</b>	<b>Infant Welfare Centre, London Road.</b>
	Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m.
	Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.
	Friday 2—4.30 p.m.

## MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

### (Sections 23 and 25)

The combined Midwifery and Home Nursing Service continued to function satisfactorily as in former years.

40 Midwives notified their intention to practise in the County and of these, 8 were employed in Institutions and 26 as District Nurse Midwives employed by the County Service. There were rather more domiciliary births than in the previous year.

A high proportion of visits were made to patients aged 65 years and over; it is noticeable that this figure rises annually.

Three members of the staff attended Midwifery Post-Graduate Courses during the year.

At the end of the year the staff position was as follows :—

- 1 Superintendent of District Nurses and Midwives.
- 19 District Nurse-Midwives.
- 4 Assistant Nurse-Midwives.
- 2 Relief District Nurse-Midwives.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurse-Midwives during the year.

TABLE 12

Number of domiciliary deliveries attended by Midwives during the year :—

(i) Doctor not booked				
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child	...	...	...	2
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	...	...	...	9
(ii) Doctor booked—				
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	...	...	...	50
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	...	...	...	371
Total				432

Number of domiciliary cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14(1) of the Midwives Act, 1951 by a Midwife—

(i) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service ... ..	67
(ii) Others ... ..	—
Total ...	<u>67</u>

Number of attendances by Midwives during the year to domiciliary cases :—

(i) Doctor not booked ... ..	778
(ii) Doctor booked ... ..	8630
Total ...	<u>9408</u>

Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child ...	259
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child ...	50

Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child ...	160
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child ...	37



TABLE 13

**Home Nursing.**

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurses during the year.

(1)	Medical (2)	Surgical (3)	Infectious Diseases (4)	Tuber- culosis (5)	Maternal Compli- cations (6)	Others (7)	Total (8)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year ...	788	396	—	7	14	—	1205	553	108	197
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year ...	17665	6826	—	212	217	2525	27445	16268	516	16456

## HEALTH VISITING

### (Section 24)

The staff of Health Visitors remained the same as in the previous year and work continued on similar lines.

There was a slight drop in the number of visits made to children under the age of five years although the actual number of children seen was a few more than in 1954. This is encouraging as it indicates the standard of "Mothercraft" in the County continues to improve. Visits are made now on a selective basis rather than regular visits at set intervals.

The increase in the number of visits to expectant mothers is partly due to the greater number of home confinements and also to the fact that Health Education is being taught to the mother from the earliest stage—a timely word to the mother with a toddler advising her how to prepare the youngster for a new arrival may prevent the development of a behaviour problem at a later date.

The widening of the scope of the Health Visitor's work is indicated by the increase in the number of "other visits". These have almost trebled in 1955. Under this heading come the welfare and care of the aged, rehabilitation of various types of cases and the visiting of "problem families". The latter work is arduous and often disheartening, at other times the results are encouraging. One particular case comes to mind to illustrate this work:—

It is that of a problem family living under very bad conditions in an isolated cottage. Three of the children were already being cared for by the County because of the parents' neglect and two other children had died in early infancy. On the return of the mother from hospital following her confinement, daily visits were made by the Health Visitor to ensure that the infant had adequate care and attention. These visits were made during a very cold spell and entailed a long drive over icy roads and then a walk over two snow-covered fields. Certainly this baby would not have made the good progress that was achieved had the Health Visitor not made these daily journeys in order to give encouragement to the mother and to ensure that the advice given to her was followed.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by Health Visitors:—

TABLE 14

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year ...	5041
Expectant mothers :	
First visits ... ..	46
Total visits ... ..	92
Children under 1 year of age :	
First visits ... ..	1359
Total visits ... ..	8400
Children age 1 and under 2 years :	
Total visits ... ..	4931
Children age 2 but under 5 years :	
Total visits ... ..	6739
Tuberculosis Households :	
Total visits ... ..	33
Other cases :	
Total visits ... ..	1187
Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors ... ..	3930
Total number of attendances made by Health Visitors at clinic sessions during the year ... ..	788



## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### (Section 26)

#### Vaccination

There was a considerable decrease in the number of vaccinations undertaken during 1955. Primary vaccinations number 461 of which 402 were infants under the age of one year. This gives the equivalent of one child being vaccinated out of every three infants born.

Re-vaccinations dropped to the low level of 10.

During the year ended 31st December, 1955, the number of persons vaccinated was as follows:—

TABLE 15

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	402	18	20	7	14	461
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	2	3	5	10

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

TABLE 16

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1—4	5—14	Total
Primary Immunisation	288	316	188	792
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	49	785	834

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

TABLE 17

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1-4 1951-1954	5-9 1946-1950	10-14 1941-1945	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951-1955	24	2466	3357	2999	8846
B. 1941-1950	—	—	1711	2370	4081

The number of primary and secondary diphtheria immunisations completed in 1955 was 792 and 842 respectively. This is a decrease from 1954 when the numbers were 1,039 primary and 1,294 booster injections.

This fall is largely accountable to the fact that all immunisations were suspended for a considerable period in the late summer and autumn in consequence of the presence of sporadic cases of poliomyelitis in the County.

There is no significant change in the proportion of children under the age of 15 years who have been immunised against diphtheria, 77.9 per cent of whom have at one time or another been immunised.

Although this compares favourably with other counties, it must be borne in mind that all these children are not fully protected as a number have not recently received re-inforcing injections.

It is becoming increasingly rare for parents to refuse immunisation because of foolish prejudices. Failure to have a child immunised is more often due to parents who are unwilling to make an effort to take the child to the clinic or make the necessary arrangements with their family doctor.

With the introduction of Whooping Cough immunisation, B.C.G. vaccination, etc., some mothers are vague as to what injections their children have received.

TABLE 18

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION**

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
<i>Primary Immunisation.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B. ...	28	20	3	6	2	—	—	59
Huntingdon R.D. ...	38	25	6	—	1	17	5	92
St. Ives M.B. ...	26	16	3	1	1	1	—	48
St. Ives R.D. ...	37	41	5	3	1	17	2	106
St. Neots U.D. ...	25	37	1	1	1	21	2	88
St. Neots R.D. ...	41	43	3	5	1	20	2	115
Old Fletton U.D. ...	34	38	3	3	1	11	—	90
Norman Cross R.D. ...	19	9	1	1	5	25	3	63
Ramsey U.D. ...	28	15	3	—	2	59	2	109
Godmanchester M.B. ...	12	9	—	—	—	1	—	22
Total for County ...	288	253	28	20	15	172	16	792
<i>Secondary or Reinforcing Injection.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
Huntingdon R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	3	146	41	190
St. Ives M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12
St. Ives R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	7	73	18	98
St. Neots U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	8	44	32	84
St. Neots R.D. ...	—	—	—	1	10	67	46	124
Old Fletton U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	6	49	11	66
Norman Cross R.D. ...	—	—	—	—	8	54	7	69
Ramsey U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	5	141	33	179
Godmanchester M.B. ...	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	7
Total for County ...	—	—	—	1	48	596	189	834

TABLE 19

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the Districts in the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31/12/54 i.e., Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1—4 1951—1954	5—9 1946—1950	10—14 1941—1945	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951—1955					
Huntingdon M.B. ...	—	213	265	239	717
Huntingdon R.D. ...	3	310	502	425	1240
St. Ives M.B. ...	2	187	130	151	470
St. Ives R.D. ...	1	374	507	496	1378
St. Neots U.D. ...	3	200	290	173	666
St. Neots R.D. ...	3	348	309	246	906
Old Fletton U.D. ...	6	297	413	358	1074
Norman Cross R.D. ...	2	205	437	398	1042
Ramsey U.D. ...	4	188	357	379	928
Godmanchester M.B. ...	—	144	147	134	425
Total for County ...	24	2466	3357	2999	8846
B. 1941—1950					
Huntingdon M.B. ...	—	—	141	195	336
Huntingdon R.D. ...	—	—	241	355	596
St. Ives M.B. ...	—	—	110	140	250
St. Ives R.D. ...	—	—	370	430	800
St. Neots U.D. ...	—	—	114	210	324
St. Neots R.D. ...	—	—	214	265	479
Old Fletton U.D. ...	—	—	173	289	462
Norman Cross R.D. ...	—	—	142	247	389
Ramsey U.D. ...	—	—	116	137	253
Godmanchester M.B. ...	—	—	90	102	192
Total for County ...	—	—	1711	2370	4081



## AMBULANCE

### (Section 27)

The following information relates to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year 1955.

TABLE 20

Service				Vehicles	Journeys	Patients		Miles
DIRECTLY PROVIDED—								
Ambulances	...	...	...	4	1866	5334	(828)	71941
Isolation	...	...	...	1	55	66	(16)	1933
St. Neots	...	...	...	1	154	340	(38)	5185
Total					2075	5740	(882)	79059
Sitting Cars	...	...	...	3	2192	8099	(103)	118574
AGENCY SERVICE					1055	2082	(148)	38957
SUPPLEMENTARY					337	839	(4)	18706
TOTAL (All Services)					5659	16760	(1137)	255296
Total 1954					5341	17065	(1203)	254875

(Figures in parenthesis indicate Emergency Calls)

The Ambulance Service continued to function as in former years.

As will be seen from the statistics there has been no abatement in the use of the Service which is in the main used for the conveyance of patients to hospital for out-patient treatment. Arising from the Ministry of Health circular dealing with the control of demands made on the Service, there is perhaps a greater appreciation on the part of the hospital staff of the need for restraint, but the lack of public transport in certain areas of the County gives rise to much misunderstanding on the part of the public.

Comparisons with the work undertaken in the previous year shows that during 1955 the number of patients conveyed showed a decrease of 305, but despite this the number of journeys was increased (318) as also was the mileage (421).

Accident and emergency calls showed a decrease of 66 journeys. The total mileage of 255,296 is the highest mileage recorded since the commencement of the Service set up under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The prognostications expressed in 1951 that the demand on the Ambulance Service was levelling out have proved to be incorrect.

During the year a decision was reached to purchase a B.M.C. diesel engined dual purpose ambulance and also a further Bedford "Utilicon." It was the intention that this latter vehicle, an addition to the existing establishment, should be available to permit all ambulance vehicles to be brought into the workshop at frequent regular intervals for maintenance. One redundant vehicle, Austin Sitting Car FEW 991 was transferred to the Youth Service, and the second Austin Ambulance FEW 992 was found to be unroad-worthy and taken out of service in August.

The mechanical efficiency of the ambulance vehicles has given cause for concern and a replacement programme was approved to provide for three new vehicles in the next year, and to avoid delays in delivery authority was given for orders to be placed for the chassis in the current financial year. The replacement vehicles are to be fitted with diesel engines. Arrangements were made during the year for the installation of a pump for the bulk storage of diesel fuel.

Alternative arrangements for the staffing of the Infectious Diseases Ambulance became necessary as a result of the part-time driver being no longer available.

## **PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE**

### **(Section 28)**

#### **Tuberculosis**

##### **Contact Examinations**

Every effort is made to have all contacts of a case of tuberculosis examined and X-rayed as soon as possible after notification. During the year a total of 201 contacts were examined at the Chest Clinics at Huntingdon and Peterborough:

##### **Employment and Rehabilitation**

The Chest Physicians continued to advise patients as to the types of employment which should be avoided and contact is maintained with the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour with a view to certain patients being found suitable light employment.

The scheme for the admission of cases for rehabilitation to Papworth Village Settlement and other Rehabilitation Units continued and at the end of the year 8 cases were maintained in such Units as compared with 5 at the end of 1954.

##### **B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis**

The Chest Physicians continued to carry out this work on behalf of the Local Health Authority at the Chest Clinics at Huntingdon and Peterborough. During the year a total of 12 cases received protection as compared with 62 during the year 1954.

The following Table sets out the number of notifications received during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year and also gives details of the work carried out during the year.

TABLE 21

**Notification received during 1955**

Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

**Number on Register on 31st December, 1955**

Respiratory				Other Forms			
Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total
171	112	18	301	18	28	34	80

**Home Visits**

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 827 Home Visits to tuberculosis cases during the year.

**No. of New Contacts examined**

					Huntingdon		Peterborough	
					M	F	M	F
Adults	...	...	...	...	66	49	10	22
Children	...	...	...	...	13	18	15	8
Totals					79	67	25	30

**No. of Skin Tests performed and results**

No. Positive	...	...	...	...	17	23	6	1
No. Negative	...	...	...	...	19	26	10	7

**B.C.G. Vaccination**

No. of persons vaccinated during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4	4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---

**Rehabilitation**

No. of persons undergoing rehabilitation at end of year	...	...	...	...	3	5	—	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---

**Total No. of Tuberculosis cases at end of year**

Working: Full-time	...	...	...	...	66	51	51	14
Part-time	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	—
Not working: Fit for work	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Unfit for work	...	...	...	...	26	19	42	29



## Mass Miniature Radiography.

The Cambridge Mass Miniature Radiography Unit made seven visits to this County during the year.

I set out below particulars of the number of persons who were X-Rayed at each Centre.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of Male</i>	<i>persons Female</i>	<i>X-rayed Total</i>
Women's Institute Hall, Ramsey. (Hunts. residents)	October, 1955.	631	679	1310
Dilley Hall, High Street, Old Fletton. (Hunts. residents)	November, 1955.	2130	923	3053
Hotpoint Factory, Old Fletton.	November, 1955.	731	520	1251
Auction Room, St. Ives. (Hunts. residents)	November, 1955.	679	661	1340
U.D.C. Offices, St. Neots. (Hunts. residents)	November & December, 1955.	889	804	1693
London Brick Co., Old Fletton.	October & November, 1955.	1251	33	1284
Keith Wright, Ltd., Fenstanton.	November, 1955.	40	19	59

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE (Section 29)

The Domestic Help Service continued to function on similar lines as in the previous year. The number of cases where assistance was given was 224, which shows a considerable decrease on the 322 cases assisted in 1954. This decrease in numbers was in part due to the fact that applications for assistance were received from fewer of the domiciliary confinement cases and from a smaller number of cases suffering from acute illnesses.

Towards the end of the year a new assessment scale was brought into operation.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year was as follows :—

TABLE 22

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	...	...	49
(b) Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
(c) Chronic sick including aged and infirm	...	...	...	117
(d) Others	...	...	...	57

## MENTAL HEALTH

### (Section 51)

#### Mental Illness

Initial proceedings are carried out by the Duly Authorised Officer, or in his absence by the Deputy Duly Authorised Officer who is employed on a part-time basis. The majority of cases continue to be referred by the medical practitioners, the remainder being referred by Health Visitors, the Welfare Department and occasionally by neighbours or the Police. Good relations continue to exist between the medical practitioners and the Duly Authorised Officers which ensures a smooth working service.

Admissions continue to be made to Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge, or to Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The number of cases referred during 1955 totalled 115 (47 males, 68 females) and were dealt with as follows :—

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Summary Reception Orders	...	...	8	17
Voluntary Admissions	...	...	32	40
Section 20 Lunacy Act	...	...	7	11

Of those admitted under Section 20, fourteen were later made Voluntary patients and four were discharged.

No progress has been made in regard to the provision of care and after-care of the mentally ill and the position remains as set out in my Annual Report for last year.

The following summaries set out the work undertaken during the year.

TABLE 23

#### Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge

No. of Certified patients admitted	...	...	...	...	22
No. of Certified patients discharged	...	...	...	...	31
No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	51
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	52
No. of patients admitted under Section 20	...	...	...	...	17

**Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs.**

No. of Certified patients admitted	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	20
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	21
No. of patients admitted under Section 20	...	...	...	...	1

**Other Hospitals**

No. of Certified patients admitted	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Certified patients discharged	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	2

**Patients in Institutions on the 31st December, 1955**

					Males	Females	Total
Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	61	88	149
Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Shenley Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Springfield Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Cane Hill Hospital, Surrey	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
					72	101	173

**Mental Deficiency**

At the end of the year the total number of persons ascertained as coming within the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts was 185 as compared with 173 in the previous year.

New cases ascertained during the year numbered 17, which was a decrease of 4 as compared with 1954. The majority of these new cases were brought to the notice of the Health Committee through the provision of Section 57 (c) of the Education Act, 1944. At the close of the year there were 15 cases awaiting admission to Institutions as compared with 12 cases awaiting admission at the end of 1954. Of these 15 cases, 7 were classified as urgent in

need of early admission to an Institution. The remaining 8 were classified as non-urgent.

All mentally handicapped cases require continual attention and supervision and undoubtedly impose a strain on their parents and the household. Those patients classified as “cot cases” whilst of a lower mentality, as a rule, are less trying on a household than the “higher grade” active cases who are frequently mobile and very destructive. The possibility of the provision of an Occupation Centre within the County for this latter type of case was again considered but two main difficulties make the provision impracticable.

- (1) The very small number of mental defectives in any one area regarded as suitable to attend a Centre.
- (2) The considerable mileage and the excessive amount of time that would be lost in the conveyance of suitable cases to and from a central occupational centre.

Training and instruction of these individuals in their homes is undertaken by the Home Teacher who also supervises cases on licence from hospitals, and pays regular visits to all cases under Statutory or Voluntary Supervision.

The following table summarises the number of visits made.

Cases for training at home	...	...	...	...	524
Cases under supervision or on licence from hospitals	...	...	...	...	566

Home Condition reports were obtained in respect of 35 patients in hospital.

The number of cases under Guardianship remained unchanged, seven cases being under guardianship of Nominees of the Guardianship Society and one under guardianship of this Authority.



The following Tables give particulars of defectives on the Register on the 31st December, 1955.

TABLE 24

		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M	F	M	F
<b>1. Particulars of cases reported during 1955.</b>					
(a) Cases at 31st December, 1955, ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with".					
Action taken on reports by:—					
(1) Local Education Authorities on children					
(i) While at school or liable to attend school ...		4	2	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools ... ..		—	—	1	1
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools ... ..		3	1	1	—
(2) Police or by Courts ... ..		—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources ... ..		1	1	—	2
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not, at 31st December, 1955, regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ... ..					
		—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives or in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1955, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b) ... ..					
		—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...		8	4	2	3
<b>2. Disposal of cases reported during 1955.</b>					
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1(a), number					
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ... ..		7	3	2	3
(ii) Placed under Guardianship ... ..		—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety" ... ..		—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals ... ..		1	1	—	—
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1(b), number					
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ... ..		—	—	—	—
(ii) Action unnecessary ... ..		—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...		8	4	2	3
<b>3. Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1955 and admitted to</b>					
(a) National Health Service hospitals ... ..		—	—	—	—
(b) Elsewhere ... ..		—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...		—	—	—	—

								Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
								M	F	M	F
<b>4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/55</b>											
(i) Under Statutory Supervision				...	...	...	...	18	13	43	29
(ii) Under Guardianship				...	...	...	...	—	—	2	6
(iii) In "Places of Safety"				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv) In Hospitals				...	...	...	...	11	3	31	26
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision				...	...	...	...	—	—	2	1
TOTAL								29	16	78	62
<b>5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1955, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. (Included in 4 (ii) )</b>								—	—	—	—
<b>6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31/12/55 (according to need at that date)</b>											
(a) Cases included in 4(i)—(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority: ...											
(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—											
(i) "cot and chair" cases				...	...	...	...	—	3	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases				...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
(iii) medium grade cases				...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—
(iv) high grade cases				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total urgent cases								3	5	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—											
(i) "cot and chair" cases				...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases				...	...	...	...	2	—	—	1
(iii) medium grade cases				...	...	...	...	1	1	1	—
(iv) high grade cases				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total non-urgent cases								4	1	1	1
TOTAL								7	6	1	1
(b) Of the cases included in items 4(i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—											
(i) occupation centre				...	...	...	...	8	4	8	5
(ii) industrial centre				...	...	...	...	—	—	3	6
(iii) home training				...	...	...	...	1	3	—	—
TOTAL								9	7	11	11
(c) Of the cases included in 6(b), number receiving training on 31/12/55:—											
(i) In occupation centre				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
(ii) In industrial centre				...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home				...	...	...	...	6	5	1	4
TOTAL								6	5	1	6



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

### Incidence of Blindness

There were 182 registered blind persons (89 male and 93 female) in the County on the 31st December, 1955, compared with 180 at the end of the previous year. During 1955 the number of cases certified blind on Form B.D.8. was 24 (9 male and 15 female). One blind person was transferred into this County from another area.

The number of deaths of blind persons recorded during the year was 18 (6 male and 12 female). 3 male and 2 female blind persons left this County during the year.

The following table shows the ages of blind persons on the register at the 31st December, 1955.

#### TABLE 25

0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	11—15	16—20	21—30	31—39	40—49	50—59	60—64	65—69	70 and over	Age not known	Total
1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	4 (4)	6 (6)	5 (4)	15 (15)	9 (13)	25 (25)	114 (109)	— (—)	182 (180)

The number of cases in the County certified to be partially-sighted during the year was 7 (4 male and 3 female). The number of partially-sighted persons on the register at the end of the year was 32 (11 male and 21 female) compared with 33 (10 male and 23 female) at the end of 1954.

The age distribution of the partially-sighted persons is shown in the following table.

#### TABLE 26

0—1	2—4	5—15	16—20	21—49	50—64	65 & over	Total
—	—	4	1	4	4	19	32

In addition to those already registered as either Blind or Partially-Sighted, in some 27 cases contact was being maintained in case they should subsequently become eligible for certification under the Act.

The following table shows the follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

TABLE 27

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para 7 (c) of Form B.D. 8 recommends :—	CAUSE OF DISABILITY							
	<i>Cataract</i>		<i>Glaucoma</i>		<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>		<i>Others</i>	
	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S
(a) No Treatment ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	9	3
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	4	3	1	—	—	—	5	1
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ...	3	1	1	—	—	—	4	1

TABLE 28

### Ophthalmia neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	...	...	1
(ii) Number of cases in which :—			
(a) Vision lost	...	...	—
(b) Vision impaired	...	...	—
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	...	...	—

TABLE 29

## Employment of Blind Persons

- (i) Homeworkers

### 1 Basket Maker.

1 Piano Tuner and Musician.

1 Weaver.

- (ii) Workshop Employees

## 2 Basket Makers at Norwich Institution for the Blind.

- (iii) Other Employment

## 1 Grocer

## 1 Physiotherapist

1 Storekeeper

5 Labourers.

At the end of the year 13 Blind persons were usefully employed.

## Home Teaching Service

Total number of visits made to Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	499
Number of other visits made in connection with blind welfare	47
Number of lessons given	9

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year notifications were made to District Medical Officers of Health in respect of 1,273 cases of infectious diseases.

There were therefore almost double the number of cases of infectious disease during the year as compared with 1954 during which year notifications were unusually low.

The increased prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough was almost solely responsible for the higher incidence of infectious diseases.

### **Diphtheria**

Once again no case of Diphtheria was notified in the County—the last case occurred in 1947. Propaganda has stressed the necessity for diphtheria immunisation and the maintenance of a high immunity state among infants. Any slackening would inevitably lead to a return of this dreaded disease.

### **Poliomyelitis**

There was an increased incidence of poliomyelitis, eleven cases were notified, six of which were in Huntingdon Rural District and four in Ramsey Urban District. None of these cases proved to be fatal.

### **Scarlet Fever**

Notifications of cases of Scarlet Fever dropped to the low figure of 24. It is now a relatively mild disease and complications rare.

### **Whooping Cough**

Unlike Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough has lost none of its virulency. 373 cases were notified in the County during the year. This is a considerable increase on the previous year when only 153 cases occurred. The increase in the number of cases was evenly distributed throughout the County. There was one death from Whooping Cough in a child under the age of one year. The gravity of this disease particularly during the first six months of infancy cannot be too strongly stressed.

It is not always appreciated by parents that Whooping Cough apart from being a fatal disease, can leave a child severely handicapped with damaged lungs.

TABLE 30  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY  
for the year ended 31st December, 1955

District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Polomyelitis	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
URBAN:																				
Godmanchester	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	81	35	—	—	1	—	—	—	154
Huntingdon	—	—	46	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	11	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	71
Old Fletton	—	—	49	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	157	—	—	1	—	5	—	220
Ramsey	—	—	8	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	7	—	24	4	—	—	1	—	—	49
St. Neots	—	—	32	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	7	—	83	—	—	—	—	1	—	125
St. Ives	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	—	—	2	—	—	—	43
RURAL:																				
Huntingdon	—	—	53	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	4	37	113	6	—	—	—	—	—	219
Norman Cross	—	—	33	—	—	2	2	2	—	1	10	—	96	—	1	—	—	—	—	147
St. Ives	—	—	52	—	1	5	—	1	—	—	7	—	21	1	—	—	—	—	1	89
St. Neots	—	—	37	—	3	3	—	12	—	—	5	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	156
TOTAL ...	—	—	353	—	7	24	4	19	—	1	67	118	655	11	1	4	2	6	1	1273



## EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

The number of persons in the County suffering from epilepsy is still not accurately known. Twelve school children, however, are known to suffer from epilepsy, of whom two are in a special residential school for physically handicapped pupils and one in a special residential school for educationally sub-normal pupils. At the end of the year there were also three adults resident in Part III accommodation and four maintained by the County Council in Epileptic Colonies in various parts of the country.

At the 31st December, 1955, six adults were known to the Authority to be spastic cases whilst five children were on the Handicapped Pupils Register as suffering from this condition. Of the five school children one was in a special residential school for physically handicapped pupils.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

**Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the  
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres**

TABLE 31

	CAMBRIDGE		PETERBOROUGH		OTHER CENTRES	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from :—						
Syphilis ...	1	2	4	1	—	—
Gonorrhoea ...	6	4	7	8	—	—
Conditions other than Venereal	17	19	21	19	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	25	32	28	—	—

## HOUSING

The figures given in the Table below have been obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health and show both the number of new houses erected and also the number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1955.

TABLE 32

<i>Sanitary District</i>	<i>New Houses by</i>		<i>By Adaptation</i>	
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>
URBAN DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon Borough ...	8	4	—	—
St. Ives Borough ...	—	3	—	—
Godmanchester Borough	24	2	—	—
Old Fletton ... ..	94	95	—	—
Ramsey ... ..	22	21	—	—
St. Neots ... ..		(not available)		
RURAL DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon ... ..	31	19	—	—
Norman Cross ... ..	2	49	—	1
St. Ives ... ..	63	17	—	—
St. Neots ... ..	12	12	—	1
TOTALS ... ..	256	225	—	2

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is a summary of that part of the work under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, undertaken for the Health Committee by the Weights and Measures Officer and his staff.

During the year 226 samples were taken, a much smaller number than the previous year. 95 samples were sent to the Public Analyst and 131 were tested in the office laboratory.

19 samples were found unsatisfactory and this is a proportion of 8.4 per cent of all samples taken.

The following table presents a picture of the coverage attained in this sphere of public protection.

TABLE 33

Name or description of article	Formal		Informal		Total
	Gen.	Not Gen.	Gen.	Not Gen.	
Aspirin tablets ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Back bacon ... ..	—	—	1	2	3
Beef puree ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Bread and butter ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Brandy ... ..	—	—	2	—	2
Butter ... ..	8	—	1	1	10
Butter sweets ... ..	2	—	—	—	2
Cheese and Macaroni ... ..	—	1	—	1	2
Cheese spread ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pure Coffee ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Coffee and Chicory Mixture ...	3	—	—	—	3
Chocolates, Double Milk ...	1	—	—	—	1
Ice cream ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Gin ... ..	—	—	1	1	2
Lemon Juice and SO <sup>2</sup> ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Margarine plus 10% butter ...	7	—	—	—	7
Milk ... ..	129	10	—	—	139
Preserves ... ..	3	—	—	—	3
Orange squash ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pastes ... ..	3	—	—	—	3
Pepper ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pork pies ... ..	1	—	—	1	2
Rum ... ..	1	—	1	—	2
Salami ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Sausage ... ..	11	4	—	—	15
Stuffed pork roll ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Stout ... ..	1	1	2	—	4
Sugar confectionery ... ..	3	—	—	—	3
Vinegar ... ..	2	1	—	—	3
Whisky ... ..	3	—	6	—	9
Total ... ..	185	17	18	6	226

The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and the Food and Drugs Act by Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S.

Samples of bottled milk, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Pasteurised, have been taken at frequent intervals from Messrs. Keith Wright's Depot, Fenstanton, and submitted for the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Test. These samples conformed to the requirements laid down by the Ministry of Food. Pasteurising plant, reception tanks, bottle washing apparatus and churns have been inspected from time to time and have been found to be clean and in good working order. The Safety First Milk Association Ltd., London, make regular inspections of these premises and equipment and their bacteriological and chemical reports are excellent.

111 Samples of bottled pasteurised milk, as supplied to Schools in the County, have been taken from the Schools and submitted to the Pathological Department, Peterborough Hospital, for bacteriological examination, only four of which did not comply with the required standard. In 26 cases the Methylene Blue test was void as the overnight storage temperature at the Hospital Laboratory exceeded 65 deg. F.

114 Visits have been made to Schools for the purpose of inspection of meals supplied to school children, particular attention being paid to the cleanliness of the equipment and utensils, also the containers where food is supplied from one school to another. The quality of the meat is also noted. On the whole conditions have been found to be very clean. Detergents are used in accordance with the advice and instructions of the Ministry of Food.

13 Bulk samples of milk have been taken from dairy premises in the County and submitted to the Biological test, all of which proved to be negative of tubercle bacilli. In each case the producer has been notified of the results of the test. In the first quarter of the year samples could not be taken owing to the shortage of guinea pigs.

Regular inspections of food shops and stores, in the District for which the County Council is responsible, have been carried out and it is noted that conditions are, for the most part, good, including the handling and wrapping of food. Open-air food stalls have also been inspected and conditions have been found to be satisfactory.



6 Certificates of Registration have been issued during the year, under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, for the storage and sale of Ice Cream.

Canned meats and other foods, as under-mentioned, have been found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption:—

628	tins	Fruit	}	Various kinds and sizes
98	tins	Vegetables		
129	tins	Meat		
210	tins	Milk		
15	tins	Soup		
37	tins	Fish	}	
7	bags	Flour		
55	lbs.	Prunes		
12	lbs.	Butter		
230 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.	Cheese		
19	lbs.	Fish		
78	lbs.	Confectionery		
23	lbs.	Sausages		
15	lbs.	Canterbury Lamb		
25	lbs.	English Beef		
241	lbs.	Imported Beef		
19		Pork Pies		
12	tins, 27 packets, 8 bottles and 4 jars	Sundry Foods.		

### St. Ives Slaughter House

The number of animals killed at St. Ives Abattoir during the year was 4,010, of which 4 whole carcasses (weight 1,734 lbs.) were condemned as unfit for human food. The weight of the parts of carcasses and organs condemned was 3,215 lbs.



The following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year—

TABLE 34

	<b>Cattle including Cows</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Sheep and Lambs</b>	<b>Pigs</b>
Number killed	941	8	483	2578
Number inspected	941	8	483	2578
<b>(All diseases except tuberculosis):</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	78	—	26	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.1%	—	5.4%	3.7%
<b>(Tuberculosis only):</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38	1	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.2%	12.5%	—	1.2%

TABLE 39

### Weights of Condemned Meat

	<b>Number killed</b>	<b>Number of Whole carcasses</b>	<b>Condemnations</b>		<b>Total Weight lb.</b>
			<b>Weight of whole carcasses lb.</b>	<b>Weight of Parts and Organs lb.</b>	
Cattle	941	2	1476	2581	4057
Calves	8	—	—	6	6
Sheep and Lambs	483	—	—	55	55
Pigs	2578	2	258	573	831
Total	4010	4	1734	3215	4949

Total animals killed: 4010.

Total meat condemned: 2 tons 4 cwts. 0 qrts. 21 lbs.











